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GENERAL ASSEMBLY
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Agenda items 30, 35, 73 and 74
QUESTION OF PALESTINE
THE SITUATION IN THE MIDDLE EAST
UNITED NATIONS RELIEF AND WORKS
AGENCY FOR PALESTINE REFUGEES
IN THE NEAR EAST
REPORT OF THE SPECIAL COMMITTEE TO
INVESTIGATE ISRAELI PRACTICES
AFFECTING THE HUMAN RIGHTS OF
THE PALESTINIAN PEOPLE AND OTHER
ARABS OF THE OCCUPIED TERRITORIES

SECURITY COUNCIL
Forty-eighth year

Letter dated 11 February 1993 from the Permanent Observer of Palestine to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I am instructed by the Executive Committee of the Palestine Liberation Organization, which retains the powers and responsibilities of the Provisional Government of Palestine, to bring the following to your immediate attention.

The situation in the occupied Palestinian territory, including Jerusalem, has been tragically and dangerously deteriorating in a rapid manner. The number of Palestinian civilians that have been killed and the number of those that have been seriously wounded or injured by the Israeli army has been drastically increasing since Mr. Rabin took office in July 1992, and particularly in the last few weeks. The alarming figures of dead and wounded include a large number of Palestinian children under the age of 16 years. It is clear that the Israeli army has intensified its use of lethal methods and means of repression against the Palestinian people living under occupation.

Today, 11 February 1993, the Israeli army imposed a curfew on the area of Khan Younis in Gaza, and prevented employees of the International Committee of the Red Cross and the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East from entering it to carry out their much-needed

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services. The army used helicopters and armoured vehicles in a repressive campaign against the Palestinian people in the area. As they have done on previous occasions, the army also demanded the evacuation of five homes and then proceeded to fire missiles at the houses. Recent similar practices by the Israeli army have caused the destruction of approximately 60 homes in Gaza. The casualties resulting from today's actions by the army have not yet become clear.

It is outrageous and distressing that such acts continue, making it even more imperative for the Security Council to take immediate measures to put an end to such criminal actions and to provide international protection for the Palestinian people, in accordance with Security Council resolution 681 (1990) and as expressed by Your Excellency in your report, dated 25 January 1993, to the Security Council. At this time, I wish to express our astonishment that the Security Council has yet to consider the above-mentioned report, which was presented to the Council in accordance with resolution 799 (1992). We urge the Security Council to consider the report immediately, with the aim of achieving the full implementation of resolution 799 (1992) and putting an end to the agony and suffering of the Palestinian people in the occupied Palestinian territory, including Jerusalem.

I would be grateful if you could arrange to have the text of the present letter distributed as an official document of the General Assembly, under agenda items 30, 35, 73 and 74, and of the Security Council.

(Signed) Nasser AL-KIDWA
Permanent Observer of Palestine
to the United Nations